



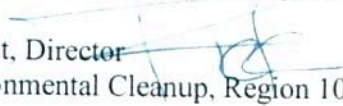
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Request for concurrence on Proposed Nationally Significant Removal at the Upper Columbia River Site, near Northport, Washington

FROM: Richard Albright, Director 
Office of Environmental Cleanup, Region 10

TO: Reggie Cheatham, Acting Director
Office of Emergency Management

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your concurrence on the proposed removal action at the Upper Columbia River Site (the Site) near Northport, Washington. The Site is not on the National Priorities List. OSWER Re-delegation of Authority R-14-2 gives you the authority to concur on nationally significant or precedent-setting removals at non-NPL sites.

The On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has discussed this proposed removal with Brian Schlieger of the Office of Emergency Management Preparedness and Response Operations Division (PROD). Region 10 believes this removal is considered nationally significant or precedent-setting because the removal action may affect other sovereign nations, including Indian Tribes. (Action Memo Guidance, September 2009).

The Site consists of 14 residential properties in the Columbia River valley north of Northport, WA. Though the Site is a non-NPL site, it is currently the subject of a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to investigate contamination along the Upper Columbia River from the Grand Coulee Dam to the United States-Canada border related to historical smelting operations. As a part of field sampling activities for the RI/FS, the EPA identified several residential properties and tribal allotments in the Columbia River valley north of the town of Northport, Washington, which contained lead and/or arsenic at elevated levels. These residential properties are the focus of the time-critical removal action described herein, are located on land that is historically and culturally significant to both the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians.

In May 2015, the EPA Region 10 Removal Program conducted a removal site evaluation. During this removal site evaluation, EPA prepared for the proposed removal action by documenting the condition and layout of each property designated for cleanup and coordinating with each of the property owners.

Teck Metals, Inc., a potentially responsible party at the Site, is currently negotiating a Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent with EPA in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for the funding and performance of the removal action.

Under that Settlement Agreement, Teck American, Inc. would be the party performing the work, though both TAI and TML will be held jointly and severally responsible for the work.

Staff-to-staff level coordination has occurred between the EPA and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation regarding the proposed time-critical removal action. EPA offered formal government-to-government consultation to the Chairmen of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Spokane Tribe of Indians on May 27, 2015. On July 7, 2015, the Colville Tribe Business Council accepted the offer of consultation and a meeting between EPA and Council occurred on July 21, 2015, in Nespelam, Washington. Two prominent topics discussed in the consultation include the Council's desire to be informed of and participate in any ongoing and future negotiations between EPA and Teck and the Council's desire for a long-term cleanup plan for the overall Upper Columbia River Site in general and the tribal allotments in particular.

The Action Memorandum is attached for your review. My approval awaits your concurrence.

Concur:



Acting Director, Office of Emergency Management

8/5/15
Date

The re-delegation authority provides that the authority to withhold concurrence rests with the Assistant Administrator. If you choose not to concur on this action, please forward this memorandum to the Assistant Administrator.

Non-Concur:

Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Date